

## 1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Mar 2009

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 17/03/2009

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#### **Welcome from the Director**

Includes: Welcome from the Director of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre**.



#### **Explore your Local Government Area with CData Online**

Includes: An article outlining the topics available in **CData Online** and some of its functions, such as generating graphs and maps using 2006 Census data.



#### **Statistician's Report on the Census**

Includes: An article providing an overview of the **Statistician's Report on the Census**, highlighting sections of the report that may be of particular interest to Local Government users.



#### **What's happening in Local Government Finance**

Includes: An update on the latest news in **Local Government Finance**.



#### **Recent and Future ABS Releases**

Includes: A number of recent and future ABS releases, including key findings from the recently released **Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business** publication.



#### **Other News and Contacts**

Includes: Information on where to find **Help for Local Government on the ABS website**, **Newsletter** and **ABS Contact Details**, and **How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to this Newsletter**.

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# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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### WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Local Government and ABS' newsletter.

If you have read any of our previous newsletters, you will have noticed that this issue looks quite different. The newsletter is presented in a different format, which we hope will be easier to use.

#### What's in this issue?

This issue contains two feature articles. In [Explore your Local Government Area with CData Online](#), we show you how this tool can be used to create customised tables, maps and graphs for your Local Government Area using 2006 Census data.

The second feature article, [Statistician's Report on the Census](#) summarises this release and highlights sections of the report that may be of particular interest to Local Government users.

Other information included in this issue includes an update on [What's happening in Local Government Finance](#), while the [Recent and Future ABS Releases](#) section includes some key findings from our recent data releases relating to sources of income for regions as well as letting you know about selected upcoming ABS releases.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Lisa Conolly

Director  
Regional Statistics Branch

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


### EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA WITH CDATA ONLINE

CDATA Online provides instant access to valuable data for your region from the 2006 Census, combined with web graphing and mapping software. CDATA topics include age, education, housing, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation and more.

CDATA allows users to create tables, maps and graphs of Census characteristics for Local Government Areas and all other ABS geographic areas. Users have the ability to manipulate the layout of the data within the tables, and are able to customise the information that is included. Data is available for Local Government Areas and for other regions including suburbs up to an entire state or territory, or all of Australia.

### Create and Customise your own Census Tables

Sex Male/Female (SEXP)  	Male	Female
State/Territory (STE)  		
New South Wales	3,228,450	3,320,725
Victoria	2,420,415	2,512,008
Queensland	1,935,379	1,969,151
South Australia	745,210	769,130
Western Australia	976,123	982,963

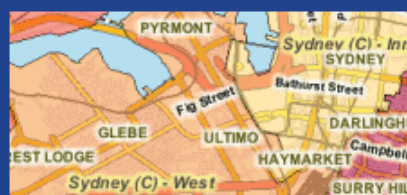
You can use CDATA Online to:

- Construct tables using 2006 Census Data
- Compare geographic areas
- Create custom geographic areas & data groups
- Add totals and view data as percentages
- Save your table to re-use later
- Export your table in Excel or CSV format

### View your data as a Thematic Map

Once you have created a table you can view the data as a map which can be customised in the following ways:

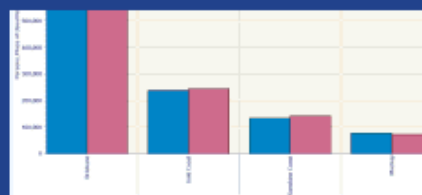
- Select the data to be mapped
- Zoom in and out on the map
- Customise your map colours and landmarks
- Download your map as a PDF or a PNG file



### View your data in a variety of Graphs

Once you have created a table you can view the data as a graph which can be customised in the following ways:

- Choose from 7 different graph styles
- Select which data is included in your graph
- Download your graph as a PDF or a PNG file



For further information, including a comprehensive User Manual, see [CDATA Online](#) or call 1300 135 070 for assistance.

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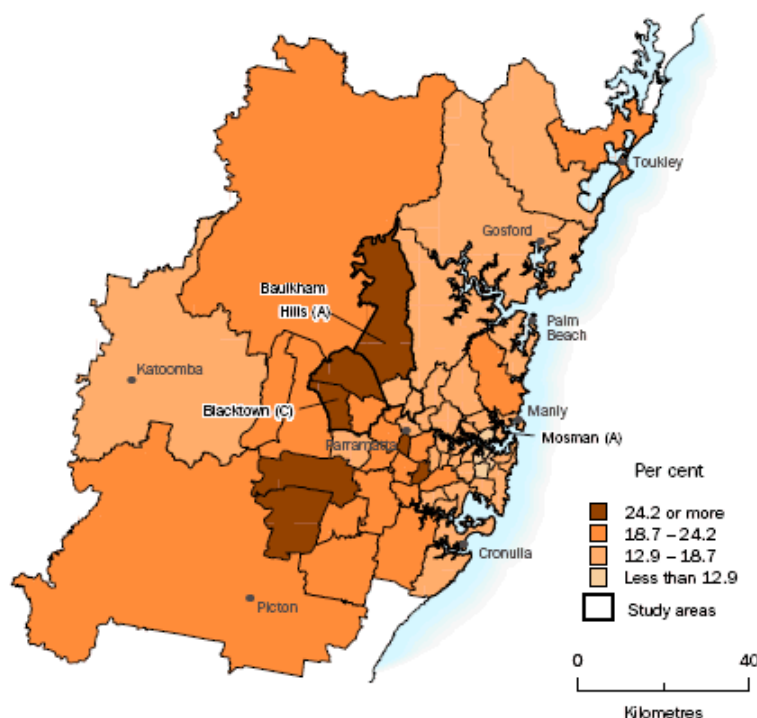
## STATISTICIAN'S REPORT ON THE CENSUS

Released on 29 January 2009, [A Picture of the Nation: the Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census](#) (cat. no. 2070.0) presents statistical analysis and commentary on the results of the 2006 Census. It also incorporates information from previous Censuses, presenting stories about contemporary society and trends that affect the lives of Australian people. The overviews and articles are organised into eight chapters, representing the following broad areas of interest: population; cultural diversity; living arrangements; community; education; work; economic resources; and housing.

The report demonstrates the many strengths of Census data, including its ability to provide information on small population groups and small geographic areas. For example, the feature article 'Families with young children: a Sydney case study' (Chapter 3 - Living Arrangements) uses the Local Government Areas of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown and Mosman as examples to explore various population characteristics associated with families living with young children.

An example of the information in the report is shown in the following map from Chapter 3:

**People in families with young children(a): Proportion of the total population in Statistical Local Areas, Sydney Statistical Division, 2006**



(a) A family with young children refers to any family that includes at least one child under the age of 5.

The report also provides an overview of Australia's population (Chapter 1), including information on population growth in Australian capital cities and large urban centres, while Chapter 6 (Work) contains

unemployment and labour force participation rates in selected Statistical Subdivisions. Chapter 7 (Economic Resources) contains a feature article 'Workers' incomes in selected regions' using the Statistical Subdivisions of North Wimmera (Vic), Greater Dandenong (Vic), Lower Northern Sydney (NSW) and the Statistical Division of Pilbara (WA) to examine some specific characteristics of the workforce in those regions.

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# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

#### Collections

The ABS collects and publishes regular data on Local Government Finance, including the amount and purpose of local government expenditure. Annual financial data is collected from each state's Grants Commission, and the ABS also undertakes quarterly sample surveys of councils.

#### Annual

The Local Government Statistical Unit (ABS) has finalised the Annual Data returns supplied by each state's Grants Commission. The financial and function data on these forms are edited with the output being used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to compile Government Finance Statistics. Data is published in Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0) in early April.

#### Quarterly

The ABS conducts a quarterly survey of financial information which will be despatched to a selected sample of councils in the third week of March. Responses to the quarterly survey are required by 8 April 2009 (6 working days after the end of the quarter). Early attention to getting the forms to the ABS will ensure that the financial activity of local government is accurately represented in Australia's National Accounts.

The ABS thanks councils for their cooperation in providing high quality data for these collections so close to the end of the quarter. Information provided is used in making important policy decisions concerning the sector and it is important that accurate and timely information is returned by councils in building this data set.

#### Other Developments

##### ABS and Grants Commissions working together

As mentioned in the [September 2008 newsletter](#), the ABS and Grants Commission Executive Officers have been working toward improving the consistency of finance data collected by each state for Local Government Finance Statistics.

ABS Local Government Finance Statistic Managers attended the Grant Commissions Executive Office's meeting on Thursday 12 February 2009.

At this meeting, the ABS and Grants Commissions again committed to work towards improving the quality and consistency of local government statistics and continued to work at ways of practically implementing the Local Government Purpose Classification being mindful of the accounting burden this potentially imposes on councils. The [Local Government Purpose Classification](#) (cat. no. 5514.0.55.002) outlines categories of services for local government, such as road services, community development and planning, and environmental protection services.

The ABS hopes to get more involved with the Local Government Finance Officer group in coming months to assist in this development. The increasing emphasis being placed on accurate asset accounting by the

Commonwealth Government was discussed as was the Australian Local Government Association's bid for funding to assist in achieving improvements in local government metrics.

## Contact

For further information or inquiries about Local Government Statistics, contact the Local Government Statistical Unit on (07) 3222 6022.

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### RECENT AND FUTURE ABS RELEASES

#### RECENT ABS RELEASES

**Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Estimates for Small Areas**

**Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas**

**Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)**

**National Regional Profile**

#### FUTURE ABS RELEASES

**Regional Population Growth, Australia**

**Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia**

**Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series**

### PERSONS WITH MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME FROM OWN UNINCORPORATED BUSINESS, ESTIMATES FOR SMALL AREAS

Released on 18 February 2009, Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Estimates for Small Areas - Data Cubes, 2004-05 to 2005-06 (cat. no. 6225.0.55.001) includes estimates of the number of persons whose main or principal source of income comes from their Own unincorporated business (es) for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 financial years. The data include estimates of the number of persons by sex, the income those persons received from Own unincorporated business (es) and the total income those persons received from all sources.

The data is intended to provide insight about the economy of regions, and in particular regional income. The data are available for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in each state and territory of Australia.

Of the ten Local Government Areas with the highest average income from Own unincorporated business in 2005-06, five were in Western Australia and four were in New South Wales.

#### Income from Own unincorporated business, Local Government Areas(a), 2005-06

Rank	State	LGA	OUB no.	OUB Income \$	Avg OUB Income \$	Total Income \$	Avg Total Inco
1	NSW	Mosman (A)	1 252	197 408 653	157 675	222 869 332	178 C
2	WA	Peppermint Grove (S)	87	13 659 882	157 010	16 032 600	184 2
3	WA	Cottesloe (T)	414	63 683 654	153 825	74 703 660	180 4
4	WA	Nedlands (C)	905	135 297 859	149 500	157 753 139	174 3
5	NSW	Hunter's Hill (A)	521	66 960 025	128 522	74 774 764	143 5

6	NSW	Woollahra (A)	2 810	351 324 368	125 026	404 068 939	143 7
7	NSW	Ku-ring-gai (A)	4 118	481 360 871	116 892	529 933 936	128 6
8	WA	Claremont (T)	400	45 127 790	112 819	52 685 956	131 7
9	WA	Subiaco (C)	758	80 779 632	106 569	96 586 407	127 4
10	Vic	Stonnington (C)	3 424	359 995 811	105 139	410 870 240	119 9

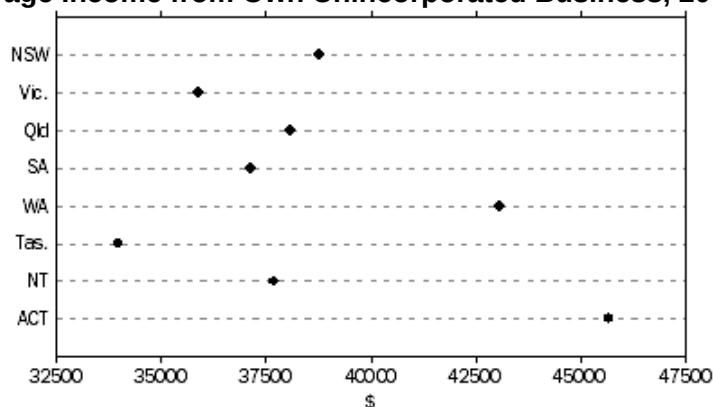
(a) Excludes unknown and unincorporated areas

For other states and territories not shown in the table above, the Local Government Areas with the highest average income from Own unincorporated business were: Queensland - Nebo (\$66,172); South Australia - Walkerville (\$97,601); Tasmania - Hobart (\$52,146) and Northern Territory - Jabiru (\$51,885). (There are no Local Government Areas in the Australian Capital Territory).

Other key findings from the 2005-06 data include:

- For Australia, the average income from Own unincorporated business in the 2005-06 financial year was \$38,259.
- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest average income from Own unincorporated business (\$45,651) followed by Western Australia (\$43,060).
- The lowest average income from Own unincorporated business was Tasmania (\$33,975).

#### Average Income from Own Unincorporated Business, 2005-06



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## ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREAS

Released on 17 December 2008, [Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2001-02 to 2005-06](#) (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) contains estimates of the sources and amount of personal income people received for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Income is presented for the following sources - Wage & salary, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding government pensions and allowances) and Total income (excluding government pensions and allowances).

Data is provided for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas in each state and territory of Australia.

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## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION (ASGC)

The latest edition of the [Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGC\), July 2008](#) (cat. no. 1216.0) was released on 26 September 2008. This annual publication outlines the geographical classification system designed and maintained by the ABS which divides Australia into geographical areas for the purpose of collecting and disseminating statistics. Details of the statistical geography effective at 1 July 2008 are provided, including maps of Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas.

In 2011 the ABS will replace the ASGC with a new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For

further information refer to the article 'ABS to Replace Statistical Geography in 2011' in the [September edition of Local Government and ABS](#). This new geography will be standardised so that it remains stable over time, and hence it does not include Local Government Areas since they do change over time. Regardless, the ABS will continue to provide statistical output for Local Government Areas.

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## **NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE**

If you are looking for information about the social and economic make-up of your Local Government Area, then the updated [National Regional Profile](#) may be just what you need. The National Regional Profile (NRP) is a snapshot of data for small areas, currently containing data for the years 2002 to 2006. This release of the NRP contains new data and extra features to help you find the regions and data you need, including how to find more recent data. For further information about the new features in the NRP, see the article in the [September issue](#) of this newsletter. For examples of how to explore your region with the NRP, including creating graphs and tables, see our article in the December issue of ['What's New in Regional Statistics'](#) (cat. no. 1386.0).

To find a snapshot of your Local Government Area, or another region, simply select the National Regional Profile link on the left hand side of the ABS website [Home Page](#) and look for further links to 'Select a Local Government Area'.

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## **REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA**

Scheduled for release on 23 April 2009, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 3218.0) will contain the latest available estimates of the resident populations of areas of Australia as at 30 June in each year from 2001 to 2008. The estimates will highlight regional population growth or decline throughout Australia and will be provided for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Districts and states and territories of Australia, using boundaries as defined in the 2008 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

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## **REGIONAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA**

Scheduled for release on 16 April 2009, Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia - Data Cubes, 2005-06 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) will contain estimates of the number of persons aged 15 years and over whose main source of income in the 2005-06 financial year was from Wages and salaries. Data will be available in various cross-tabulations of the characteristics of Wage and salary earners including age, sex, occupation, Wage and salary income and total income. Data will be available at the Local Government Area level and other geographies (Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions, State/Territory and Australia).

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## **ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREAS, TIME SERIES**

Scheduled for release on 25 May 2009, Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2001-02 to 2005-06 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.003) will contain estimates of the sources and amount of personal income people received for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06. This release is related to the previously released [Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2001-02 to 2005-06](#) (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) but presents each financial year data on common boundaries, using the 2006 Australian Standard Geographical Classification. Data will be available for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas in each state and territory of Australia.

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### OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

#### HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

For help in finding data for your Local Government Area and information about how to keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and available training, click on the following link to view the ['Services We Provide to Local Government'](#) information pages.

Alternatively, go to the [ABS Home Page](#), click on 'Services' along the top navigation bar and follow the link to 'Local Government'.


#### NEWSLETTER AND ABS CONTACT DETAILS

This newsletter is designed to improve communication between the ABS and the Local Government Sector. New ABS initiatives to assist local government organisations will be announced in this newsletter as they evolve.

We appreciate receiving your views and suggestions about this newsletter so that it remains useful and assists you to understand and use ABS statistics. We also welcome suggestions for articles that you feel should be included. Please email your comments and suggestions to [regional.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:regional.statistics@abs.gov.au) or telephone (08) 8237 7350.

For other enquiries contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au).

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Alternatively, you can access the [Email Notification Service](#) from the link on the ABS Home Page or from the Email Notification icon on any other page of the website where it appears. Simply choose topic '1. General', subtopic '13. Year books and other multi-subject products', select 'Go' and scroll down to '1376.0 - Local Government and ABS'. The service also enables you to find out what you have subscribed to, and cancel or modify your subscription.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, click on the following link [Remove Products From Your Subscription](#), and follow the steps above to select '1376.0 - Local Government and ABS'.

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Contains a range of information on ABS developments in rural and regional statistics, and information about recent releases at Local Government level or other regional levels.

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